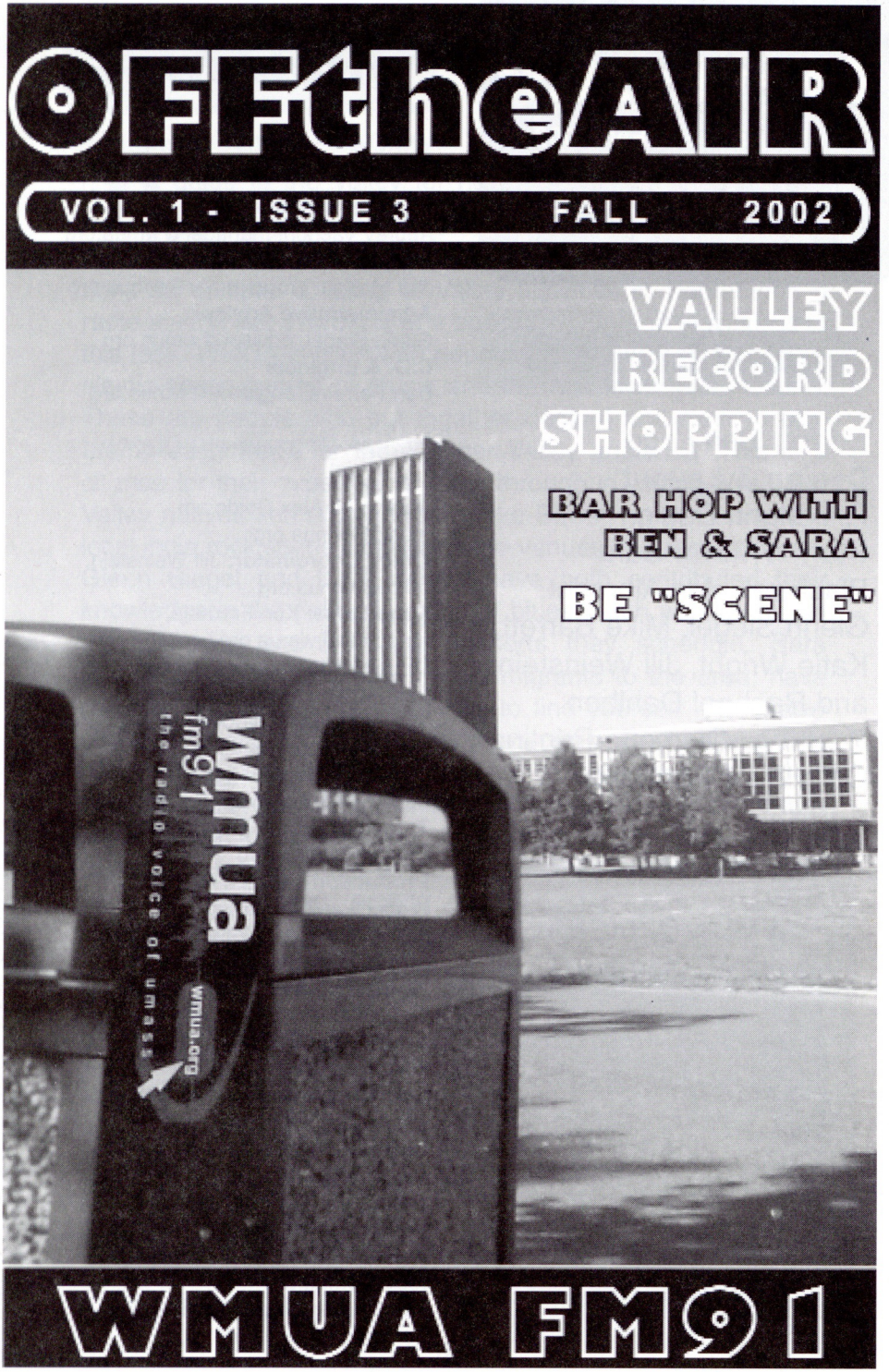
OFFtheAIR
VOL. 1 - ISSUE 3 FALL 2002
VALLEY RECORD SHOPPING
BAR HOP WITH BEN & SARA
BE "SCENE"
wmua
fm 91
the radio voice of umass
wmua.org
WMUA FM91

OFFtheAIR

Vol. 1, Issue 3. Fall 2002

WMUA FM91 | Amherst

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

"A guide to the Valley for new students? Everyone does that!" Responses like that followed me through the process of putting this issue of Off the Air together. While many publications do compile a listing of Valley activities in September, a radio station like WMUA is at a special advantage in regards to this task. WMUA is filled with people who are extremely enthusiastic about genres of music and the rich local music scene. These are people who put together original and exciting programs each week for the Pioneer Valley audience. This is a chance for their expertise to show through in writing. We have Valley natives Jen Albrecht and Mike Barrett writing about the local indie rock scene's performance venues and record stores. Glenn Siegel and Katie Wright have both contributed their knowledge in the fields of jazz and blues much as they do on the airwaves and with the concerts they schedule. Sara Blackwell and myself, both recent migrants to the area, have included a guide of the best bars to find yourself with a new crowd. In addition to all of this we have one of Rachael and Jill's now classic WMUA quizzes, and all of the information you'll need to plan your WMUA listening schedule. Use the information in here to expand your knowledge of the area, and to expand your knowledge of the programming at WMUA. If you have any questions, please e-mail wmuarag@hotmail.com. Here's to a great new schedule.

Ben Legg
Off The Air Editor
& WMUA Publicity Director

Our Editor, chillin' back relaxin' and actin' all cool.

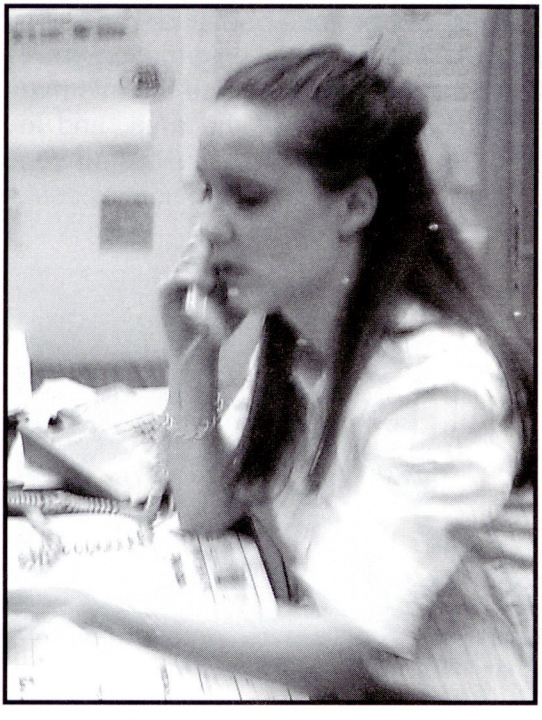
A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAMMER

WMUA has made its mark as the Pioneer Valleyís best college radio station, and this semester our devotion to providing our listeners with the best alternative programming continues. Whether you want local news coverage of UMass and the surrounding communities, you tune in for the public affairs coverage that gives you a new angle on an up-to-date topic, you love the music you just wonít hear anywhere else, or you listen to us 24/7, WMUA is the radio station you want to tune in to.

This fall, WMUA is back and better than ever with some fresh new shows, as well as some classic programs. You can tune in to hear everything from blues to hip hop, Broadway to Polkas. Our block-programming during the week ensures that youíll know just what youíre going to get, but still guarantees variety from day to day throughout the week. Thereís something for each of our listeners, no matter what your tastes might be.

So make sure to preset your radio to the student and community radio station at the University of Massachusetts, WMUA 91.1FM!

Jennifer Moskal
WMUA Programmer



Aubrey Vachon, WMUA's General Manager since 2001, hard at work in the office.

A NOTE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

There's always room for improvement. I continuously remind myself of that fact. What I have done in the past has been done and made me the person I am today. I am happy with who I am and what I have accomplished. But I wonder, sometimes, if things could be better than they are.

So every year when I return to the UMass campus I challenge myself to do something differently than I had done it the past year. I challenge myself to add something to my life – or change something about it – that could possibly improve it so I don't get stuck in a repetitive and miserable rut.

I've found that a good challenge never hurt anyone, so this Fall I have a challenge for you. Why not add something to your life – or do something differently in your life – that could improve it. Take a minute to think about it. What could you do that could possibly make your life right now better?

Any ideas? How about this: You could listen to WMUA! It may be a hard concept to take in, but I truly believe that being a frequent WMUA listener can be a life altering experience. Through WMUA you can travel the world and meet hundreds of new people during our World Music block. You can open your mind to new ways of thinking about important issues of the day during our Public Affairs block. And you can explore the caverns of underground music during our Rock block.

"The past is our definition. We may strive, with good reason, to escape it, or to escape what is bad in it, but we will escape it only by adding something better to it."
- Wendell Barry

More than likely your past experiences with radio have been full of monotonous programming. On the opposite end of the musical spectrum is WMUA. Our programming staff are incredibly diverse and by tuning in you can free yourself from the repetitive and sometimes-miserable rut that is commercial radio. As Wendell Barry said, there's no way to escape the past unless we add something better to it.

So why not add some WMUA to your life? It can't hurt to try. And I promise you, you won't be disappointed.

Aubrey Vachon
WMUA General Manager

Drinking Your Way Through the Valley w/Ben and Sara

You're new to the area, preferably a transfer student (we don't want a run on the fake I.D. market), and you need to feel like your old rock star self again. In a valley crawling with more than 30,000 students, the selection of bars, clubs, shows, and parties can be overwhelming. While it is definitely fun to crawl through the bars of Amherst and Northampton, there is much to be said for finding a watering hole where people know they can find you on a certain night of the week, where the bar staff can shoot you with a squirt gun, and where other patrons will help you out of the toilet after a rough night. In this guide, we'll cover four of the best places in the Valley for a drink, a dart throw, and a waste of five bucks on the juke box. While these may not be the hippest places in town, they are definitely unique and will help you get right into the Pioneer Valley experience. We've also given a few honorable mentions that, while not institutions in our eyes, are places to be seen nevertheless. Here goes....

A woman enjoys the outdoor ambiance of The Spoke, in Amherst.

The Spoke

The "indie" bar of Amherst, The Spoke features cheap drink specials and an jukebox filled with eclectic, funky-fly hits. The bicycle theme is cute, and they have a great sidewalk sitting area if you want to feel all European for the night (though The Spoke's atmosphere is far from Euro). While the Spoke apparently serves kielbasa sandwiches and has some munchies for sale behind the bar, we're kinda hesitant about eating food at bars. There's a pool table if you feel the need for competition, without resorting to fisticuffs. Sorry cancer kids, but The Spoke is smoke free, as is the rest of Amherst. Some people really like that fact, but others think it makes the bars feel like church basements. You may decide for yourself. The Spoke is on North Pleasant St. in Amherst, next to Copy Cat and the Sub Shop. It may not look as flashy as the bars up the street, but it's worth your while.

Ye Ol' Watering Hole

Pool sharks, professional drunks, and a beer can museum make the Hole a pretty good place to relax and drop all your rock star pretensions. It is definitely not the place to be "seen," but it is a place to have good time. Ye Ol' has drinks in the low to moderate price range, a jukebox loaded with Black Sabbath, four pool tables, and free darts. The bar staff is cute, a little bit rowdy, and they keep lots of shots going around. It can get crowded and rowdy on weekends, but the Hole is the kind of bar you can go to with your workmates to shoot pool and throw some darts. If you just want to drop the student stigma, drop in and try to feel like a local for a night. The Hole is on Pleasant Street in Northampton, right near that other Northampton monument, Hugo's.

Hugo's

Hugo's is many things to many people. For some, it is a place to shark pool without all the dark wood of Packard's. For others, it is that dive bar at the end of Pleasant Street that serves Pabst Blue Ribbon and attracted bikers back in our parents' day. For others still, it is a friendly place where you can happen upon many key elements of the Northampton scene on any night of the week. Hugo's is all of these things, and it has a damn fine jukebox to top it all off. Some people may shy away from the smoke, the crowds, and the PBR, but a visit to Hugo's is an integral part of the Northampton experience. Weekends are busiest, but each night you can find a diverse crowd that ranges from local rockers to people who don't feel right paying more than $1.25 for a beer. Hugo's is located on Pleasant Street, on the very edge of downtown Northampton.

The Brass Cat

When all of the students finally move to Easthampton to escape the rising rents of Northampton, the Brass Cat may become as crowded as Hugo's. But for now, the Brass Cat remains a fairly quiet place with a great neighborhood feel. The bar staff loves the clientele, and it shows in their service. The Brass Cat has the standard bar toys, such as pool tables and a dartboard, but there's also plenty of space for those that want to sit, drink, and talk. Despite being larger than Hugo's, the Brass Cat manages to feel more intimate and cozy. Local musical acts play here throughout the school year, and the Brass Cat is also spitting distance from Flywheel. Anybody who wants a drink before, during, or after a show can sit back and stare at the cat, situated directly above the bar. The Brass Cat is on Cottage Street in Easthampton, near Capo's Coffee Shop and the Flywheel.

Honorable Mentions

Other keystones of the area's bar scene include Pruddy's, on Main Street in Amherst near Amherst Chinese Food. The beer is cheap and it has one of the few Latin nights in Amherst; but all told, it is the ambience that makes Pruddy's special. Located in the basement of a house, Pruddy's has a laid back, Caribbean atmosphere that some describe as "The Pirate's Dungeon."

"The beer is cheap and it has one of the few Latin Nights in Amherst..."

Be sure to check out the murals on the way to the bathroom. Also featuring a Latin Night (Tuesdays) is Bar 19, located next to the Calvin Theater on King St. in Northampton. Bar 19, with lots of blue lighting and tiles, feels fairly posh in comparison to some other Northampton bars. Drink prices can be steep, and the service lacking at times, however, the music and crowd are usually very interesting. Other theme nights at Bar 19 include "Dragon's Den" on Thursdays, an 80s night featuring WMUA's DJ Bongohead, and "Kit Kat Club" on Wednesdays for "women to meet, mingle, and

dance." Pearl Street Nightclub on Pearl St. and Iron Horse Music Hall on Center St. are under the same ownership as Bar 19. Both are landmarks of Northampton nightlife, but less bars than they are dance clubs and venues for live music. Pearl Street attracts bigger names and more rock acts, while the Iron Horse has an interesting mix of jazz, blues, folk, and international acts. For pool and great late night munchies, check out Packard's on Masonic St. in Northampton.

Finally, no description of Valley nightlife would be complete without mentioning Friday night karaoke. Both the World War II Club on Conz St. in Northampton and Grandstands at the Northampton Bowling Lanes on Pleasant St. are super places to try to become a star. WWII attracts a very mixed crowd, including local indie kids, Smithies, pool sharks, and veterans, while Grandstands gets a slightly older and more serious karaoke crowd. Don't let the singers at any of these places intimidate you. Write the number down on the little paper, then get up and sing when you're called. So have a few drinks, find yourself an audience,and put as much into it as you can. The places above are pretty neat, but a bar can only make you as hip as the energy you bring into it can make you.

VALLEY BARS @ A GLANCE

The Spoke - Offers outdoor seating and kielbasa sandwiches.

Ye Ol' Watering Hole - Pool, darts and Black Sabbath.

Hugos - Pabst's Blue Ribbon

The Brass Cat - Cozy, and right next door to the Flywheel.

Pruddy's - Latin Music, Cheap Brews.

Bar 19 - Theme Nites

WWII Club - Karaoke

Grandstands - More Karaoke!

Valley's Got The Blues

The Pioneer Valley is lucky to be the headquarters for a lot of cool blues music, with several great bands calling this area home. Look for Sweet Daddy Cool Breeze in Holyoke, the King Bees in Amherst, Ed Vadas or Art Steele in Northampton, Higher Help in Hadley, Janet Ryan in Chicopee, and Susan Angeletti anywhere you can find her. These great blues artists and many others are playing throughout the Valley on any given weekend.

Many fun local bars feature blues, so it's worth checking their listings. For example, the Amherst Brewing Company in downtown Amherst is a good spot for music, and the Harp in North Amherst is very fun and has good tunes. Also check out the Hot L Warren in South Deerfield (their sign lost it's "E" years ago, but even when they got it back, the nickname stuck). The People's Pint in Greenfield has blues along with a wide variety of local music.

National blues acts come through the Pioneer Valley regularly. The Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton is a center for clean, all-ages music with great sound, but for true down and dirty blues, including unbelievable BBQ food, take the trip down I-91 to Theodore's Nightclub, on Worthington Street (one block off of Main St at Exit 7) in Springfield. They have great blues every weekend, both regional and national. Get out and enjoy!

BLUES/ECLECTIC

MONDAY

6:00am-9:00am
Pat Morin - Robot Parade
"College rock on college radio."

2:30pm-5:00pm
Matt Brady (et al),
Hold the Instruments - "A show comprised entirely of a capella music, with particular emphasis on college groups, including everything from hard rock to doowop to ballads."

TUESDAY

6:00am-9:00am
Lee Larcheveque, The Acoustic Café—"Singer-Songwriters of the 90s and the New Millennium."

2:30pm-5:00pm
Karen Tassinari
An Ocean of Blues—"An ocean of new and old blues with splashes of folk, world, and rock music. Listen and relax."

WEDNESDAY

6:00am-9:00am
Fern Sperier, Oblivion Express—"Travel the musical spaceways with the Oblivion Express, as we journey from the 1930s to 2000 and beyond. A sweet mix of folk, jazz, rock, blues, world and a whole lot more. An eclectic way to start your day."

2:30pm-5:00pm
Janine Cardello --
"Blues, blues, blues!"

BLUES/ECLECTIC CNT'D

THURSDAY

6:00am-9:00am
Hollis Wheeler, Jazz Flights—
"Jazz from the last century and this one too! Hear jazz vocals, swing, and big band. So come fly with me!"

2:30pm-5:00pm
Katie Wright,
Katie's Rhythm and Blues Review—"The spot for blues and R&B, Jump & Jive, Swing & Soul...Don't miss it!"

FRIDAY

6:00am-9:00am
Jake Lewis
Stage and Screen—"Broadway and off-Broadway, show tunes, movie themes, TV jingles, plus entertainment news and give-aways."

2:30pm-5:00pm
Ellen Miller-Mack
Blame it on the Blues—"One minute soulful, reverential the next, and always exploring the African-American foundation of our culture."

The Valley Jazz Scene, Dig?

The jazz scene in the Pioneer Valley, while small by New York standards, is large compared to almost any other rural area of its size. All the key elements of a jazz scene are in place: you can hear it on the radio, buy it in local stores, and see it live. Even a highly respected jazz record label calls the Valley home.

There is a history of jazz activity in the area. Archie Shepp, Yusef Lateef, Marion Brown, and Max Roach have all called the Valley home over the years. Reggie Workman, Ray Copeland, and Ken McIntyre have all taught at the Five Colleges, and musicians like James Emery, Elliot Sharp, and Joe Fonda once lived here as well. In the 1970s, Sweet Earth Records of Northampton produced recordings

Sam Rivers is one of many jazz greats who has graced the Magic Triangle Stage.

by Sun Ra, Marion Brown, and Amina Claudine Myers, among others. Today, Eremite Records (with WMUA's own Michael Ehlers as CEO) operates locally and has 33 releases to date, including two recorded at WMUA's Magic Triangle Jazz Series.

There has long been a rich jazz radio scene in the Pioneer Valley. WMUA, 91.1 FM, has its jazz on weekdays from 9:00am until noon, and 6:00am on Thursday. WFCR, 88.5 FM, provides jazz on weekdays from 8:00pm until midnight. WTCC (Springfield), 90.7 FM, has jazz in the morning from 10:00am until noon and in the evening from 10:00pm until midnight. WRNX, 100.9 FM, and WRSI, 93.9 FM, have jazz shows on Sunday mornings 9:00am until noon. WAMH (Amherst College), 89.7 FM and WOZQ (Smith College), 91.9 FM, also broadcast jazz at various times.

The live jazz scene includes regular offerings at the University. The Fine Arts Center offers two or three shows in their "Center Series" (Dianna Reeves on Feb. 6 and Mingus Big Band on April 12). A new offering, the "Solos & Duos Series" (Marks Brothers, Sept. 25; Andrew Cyrille, Oct. 18; Ran Blake, Nov. 20) will take place on the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall stage. WMUA's own Magic Triangle Jazz Series takes place during the Spring semester. The UMass Music presents regular student and faculty concerts.

The Iron Horse in Northampton books jazz from time to time. This fall's offerings include Willem Breuker Kollektief (Sept. 24), Avishai Cohen & the International Vamp Band (Oct.17), and Jane Monheit (Dec. 1 and 2). The jazz club scene also features venues like Amherst Brewing Company,

"The live jazz scene includes regular offerings at the University."

People's Pint (Greenfield), Mulino's (Northampton) and Fire & Water (Northampton). Flywheel, a community arts space in Easthampton, sometimes presents jazz and other improvised music. Further afield in Great Barrington is Club Helsinki, which has hosted artists such as Olu Dara, Odeon Pope. and John Scofield. Also check out the Vermont Jazz Center www.vtjazz.org) in Brattleboro, which stages monthly concerts by world-renowned artists (Arturo O'Farrill Trio, with Andy Gonzalez and Steve Johns, Oct. 11; John Tchicai, Paul Smoker, Barry

Altshcul, Adam Lane, Oct. 12; Joe and Matt Maneri, with Michael Formanek and Randy Peterson. Nov. 10.)

In February, the Northampton Center for the Arts will present "A World of Piano", solo piano concerts by Chris Anderson, Amina Claudine Myers, and Borah Bergman. For information about jazz performance in greater western New England, check out the Hartford Jazz Society at <www.hartfordjazzsociety.com/calendar.html>.

Listen to the music on the radio, go see it performed live, and purchase it for your own pleasure. This should add great enjoyment to your life and will help support jazz as a continually evolving art form.

Glenn Siegel, WMUA Advisor

JAZZ

MONDAY

9:00am-12noon
Mark Gardner,
The Jazz Garden—"A broad spectrum of jazz from 1950 to the present."

TUESDAY

9:00am-12noon
Michael Ehlers,
The Transnational Jazz Conspiracy---"The free-jazz diaspora."

WEDNESDAY

9:00am-12noon
Cheryl K/Ken Irwin
Java Jazz—"Jazz music comes alive each Wednesday morning with the best of classic and contemporary improvised music from the great African-American tradition."

THURSDAY

6:00am-9:00am
Hollis Wheeler
Jazz Flights—"Jazz from the last century and this one too! Hear jazz vocals, swing, and big band. So come fly with me!"

9:00am-12noon
David A. Lewis
Jazz Greats—Mixes classic works of famous jazz musicians with lesser-known compositions of obscure and independent artists, with a general theme of brightening your morning."

FRIDAY

9:00am-12noon
W.S. Tkweme
Afro Excursions—"Exploring the musical worlds of African America."

Enjoy WMUA's Jazz programming? check out our World Music Block every week day from Noon untill 2:30!

WMUA FALL 2002 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
ECLECTIC	Pat Morin Robot Parade	Lee Larchevegue Acoustic Cafe	Fern Sperier / Joel Silverstein Oblivion Express	Hollis Wheeler Jazz Flights	Jake Lewis Stage & Screen	Mitch & Jen Early Bird Polka Show	Rev. Bobby J. Wallace Sunday Morning Gospel
JAZZ	Mark Gardner Jazz Garden	Michael Ehlers X-Nat'l Jazz Conspiracy	Ken & Cheryl Java Jazz	David A. Lewis Jazz Greats	W.S. Tkweme Afro Excursions	Billy Belina Polka Bandstand	
WORLD	Brandon Marger Afro Roots	Tamie and Vinh A Little Voice	Glenn Siegel Tiny Planets	Ben Legg Musica Atomica	Rachel Dahblen/ StratesFrangules	Jen Moskal Jen's Time Machine	Helen Szubzda Polka Celebration
ECLECTIC	Matt Brady Hold The Instruments	Karen Tassinari Ocean of Blue	Janine Cardello My Heavy Heart	Katie Wright Katie's R&B Review	Ellen Miller-Mack Blame it on the Blue	Mike Barrett Liberation Frequency	Ken Mosakowski Focus
PUBLIC AFFAIRS	Jennie Traschen Undercurrents	Sports Staff Sportsline / Coach'sShow	Daria Fisk Makig Contact/ UpFront	Counterspin / Voices of Justice	Marlo&Rachel/ Kim McDowel		CB&B Crew Country, Blue, and Bluegrass
ROCK	Jared Friedman Darknoise	Sara Blackwell Let it Bleed	Weinman/Slipp Under the Bigtop	Stacy&Jen Something Old, Something New...	Jonathan Leachman	(Caroline Ealy) Yatscher My Mood	Christoph Cox Thousand Plateaus
URBAN	DJ Fo-Lizzy Double & 1/2 Power Hour	DJ Rad Dan Dubharmonic	DJ Bongohead Feel Flows	Regan McKendry Power 91	Cisco TheKingDom	Bilal Ghandour Mix & Match of the 80's	Max Shea Martian Gardens
ROCK	Emily Richards, Lauren LeSanto Queens...	Matt & Ken Shut Up & Play Some Music!	Paul Donovan Gross Articulation	Joel LaPointe For the Haters	Lyndsy & Emily Women who Rock	Matt Feato Technopolis	DJ Solveig Embrace of the Darkness and Metal
URBAN	Jen Albrecht	Katie Quick Complete Nonsense	James Naddeo Fall & Deline of Roman...	Chris Jones My Apt. is infested w/ Koalas	William Gish		

WMUA NEWS 5-5:30 WEEKDAYS

Were You a Rock Star in a Past Life?

By Jill Weinstein and Rachael Dahlben

1)Once you retire, where do you see yourself?
A Jamaica, mon!
B England: God Save the Queen!
C Traveling through our Great American Heartland
D Rainy Seattle

2)When you go to your hairdresser, how do you say that you want your hair done?
A Are you kidding?? You can't get your hair done! You have dreads!
B Spiked up with glue
C Long and parted in the middle
D Cut chin length and straightened

3)At a big party, you usually find yourself...
A Chilling with your best friend, Mary Jane
B Violently trashing the place in a drunken rage
C Drinking alone in the crowd
D What party? You're usually at home, where you have all the goods to yourself!

4)How do you like to get around?
A Bicycle
B Motorcycle
C Mercedes-Benz (Won't you buy me one, please?)
D Skateboard

5)If you were to open a store, what would it be?
A "Smoke" shop
B Dirty, smelly bar....in England....God Save the Queen!
C Vintage clothing and jewelry shop
D Music store

6)If someone attacks you on the street, you immediately pull out your...
A Switchblade
B Fist.... and ram it straight into the attacker's face
C Peace sign... and try to talk the attacker into giving peace a chance
D .38 Caliber

7)What kind of "pet" person are you?
A Fish
B Dog
C Cat
D Anything, so long as it doesn't breathe, move, or make noise

8)Your major in college was/is/would have been....
A Botany
B Psychology
C Women's Studies
D Social Thought and Political Economy

TURN TO PAGE 26 FOR YOUR TEST RESULTS!

ROCK

MONDAY

12 midnight-3:00am
DJ Solveig, Embrace of the Darkness and Metal—
"Metal uniquely from Europe. Included are gothic, black, thrash, doom and death metal. Focusing on new material but including classics from the 1980s and 90s."

6:30pm-9:00pm
Jared Friedman
Darknoise---"Like the prize in bottom of a Crackerjacks box, Darknoise brings you something new everytime you open it. Like the mystery meat in the back of the fridge, Darknoise will always be there to surprise you. DJ Jared will bring to you old and new music of varying genres in an attempt to keep you guessing as to what's coming next. Prepare for the unexpected."

11:30pm-1:30am
Emily Richards and Lauren LeSanto
Queens of the Midnight Tunes—"A variety of rock from classic to new to underground and everything in between."

TUESDAY

6:30pm-9:00pm
Sara Blackwell
Let it Bleed—"Rock with a beat."

11:30pm-1:30am
Ken Fredette and Matt Henry,
Shut Up and Play Some Music—
"At least our moms listen!"

1:30am-3:30am
Katie Quick
Complete Nonsense—"A mix of rock, punk, ska, funk, emo, indie, and more…fast paced tunes to get worked into a frenzy to, and also some more relaxed ones to chill to, so no one bursts a blood vessel."

WEDNESDAY

6:30pm-9:00pm
Under the Bigtop and the Sideshow with the Ringmaster and Sideshow Slipp—"A variable smorgesboard of rock'n'roll music to please the ears from punk to ska, emo to hardcore, and more."

11:30pm-1:30am
Paul D, Gross Articulation—"An eclectic array of rock, music that borders on the schizo. Trying to tie the known in with the lesser known, exploring links throughout. Requests, requests, requests…dammit…

THURSDAY

6:30pm-9:00pm
Jen Albrecht and Stacy Palozie,
Something Old, Something New…--
"Something Borrowed, Something Blue. Covering just about everything from the early stages of hardcore, punk and emo to the 'tougher,' 'poppier' and 'sappier' stages of today."

11:30pm-1:30am Joel LaPointe,
For the Haters—"Punk/Metal/Hardcore from (A)crid to (Z)egota."

FRIDAY

1:30am-3:30am
Chris Jones, My Apartment is Infested with Koala Bears—"Rock with a little electronic influence from time to time. Energetic time changes, awesome melodies."

6:30pm-9:00pm
Jon Leachman --"Let Jon start off your weekend with plenty of energized rock/funk music along with humor."

11:30pm-1:30am
Lyndsy and Emily, Women Who Rock—
"We bring you women who rock – old, new, and everything in between! The underrepresented gender in a competitive genre: acoustic, metal, punk, riot girl, independent and little known artists. Political, controversial, and love ballads. Interviews and live albums too!"

Where It's At: The 411 on the 413

By Jen Albrecht

Here's a not-so-complete sampling of where to see and be "scene" in the Pioneer Valley.

The Fat Cat:

The Fat Cat is located on downtown Springfield's nightclub strip, Worthington Street. It is easy to refer to The Fat Cat as the most reliable place to catch all-ages metal/hardcore shows - generally on Sunday nights. Supply and demand, among other factors, have moshed the cover charge through the roof, but that doesn't keep the Fat Cat from drawing
a sweaty crowd. As part of The Cats Alley bar, rock bands with more of a mainstream appeal play on Thursdays. If you show up and decide it's not your style, you can always get your boogie on across the street at the Hot Club or around the corner at the Hippodrome, which occasionally takes a break from the hot body contests to have some sort of rock concert!

The Five Colleges:

College radio is one of the best ways to get in the know when it comes to the hippest tunes, and campuses can also be a great place to scope out the performers in the flesh. Sometimes sponsored by radio stations, sometimes booked by students into the Do-It-Yourself vibe, be on the lookout for your favorite local hardcore bands or hip hop artists coming to a residence hall or auditorium (or even live at a station itself!) near you. UMass, Mt.Holyoke, Smith, Amherst, and Hampshire all have some pretty worthwhile shows throughout the academic year.

Flywheel:

As an arts collective in the center of the quaint town of Easthampton, the Flywheel prides itself in being non-profit, all volunteer, and democratically run by the people who use it. In addition to a performance space, there's a `zine library, a cafe, and an art gallery. Shows never cost more than $5. This place rules! When the Flywheel has a show that's going to exceed their 100 person capacity, they get Inside/Out and hold events at places like the Easthampton Town Hall. I can go on and on, but you should just visit their 2 Holyoke Street address and see for yourself. There's something going on just about every night. Check out flywheelarts.org for more information. (413) 527-9800.

Mass Skate Coalition:
Skateboards and bikes arent the only ways to thrash it up at this indoor park in Westfield, which plays host to hardcore bands every once in a while. MSC features include a mini ramp, pro shop, and a street course. The address for MSC is 1029 North Road (Route 202), (413) 534-1000.

Pearl Street Nightclub, Iron Horse Music Hall, Calvin Theatre:
TheseThree Northampton venues all underneath the Iron Horse Entertainment Group umbrella are known for hosting well-known acts and veterans of various music genres. Pearl Street has the occasional indie rock or ska show. The Iron Horse seems to have a lot of jazz and singer/songwriter acts play. The Calvin Theatre and Performing Arts Center holds the larger performances such as Chuck Berry in late September or Philip Glass this Halloween. Check out http://www.calvintheater.com for events listings.

Has one of your favorite chill-spots been left out?! Let us folks at WMUA know and we can include it in our next issue! Stay tuned to WMUA to get in the latest in local music information or send us your information if you're putting on a show! So now get out and be "scene"!

Poncho Sanchez performed this past April to a sold-out crowd at the Iron Horse in NoHo.

A New Student's Guide to Record Shopping in The Valley

By Michael C. Barrett

Well, now that all you geeks and wizards are trapped here for the next 14 weeks, you must be wondering, "Where is all the Rock 'n Roll?" or, maybe, "My parents are still giving me a hefty allowance, what useless crap can I spend it all on?" Fear not naïve Freshmen! Let Uncle Mike show you where to get your new limited edition colored vinyl 7" by Thursday and where you can bank on getting five bucks for that Shakira CD your fourteen year-old sister bought you as a going away present.

Step One, The New:

In Amherst, there are a number of pop-shops for you to overspend your leftover book money at.

Newbury Comics.
Let's start with the ground zero for trends: Newbury is a great place if you like M2. They still carry some good independent/underground music, but for the most part, prices have been going up, and quality has been going down. There was once a time when I wouldn't walk down that side of Main St. without twenty dollars in my pocket. Now I can hardly find something that I don't have already, or anything that I'd be willing to pay what they ask for. Most anything they carry can be found a few dollars cheaper on the internet. However, it's a good gateway for anything "cool." Look into it. CDs run $10.99- $16.99 on average, and LPs vary.

For The Record.
Much like the Fear song, "New York's Alright If You Like Saxophones," For The Record is alright if you like "Ken Burn's Jazz" documentary. It is a tidy little store that sells tidy jazz, world, and adult contemporary music. It's also one of the many local indie stores that is as expensive as the mall, with little improvement in selection.

Growroom.
Growroom sells vinyl, equipment and clothes for DJs. It has a better selection for techno and hip hop vinyl than Newbury's. Since it's not my scene, I don't go there much.

Now we cross the Coolidge Bridge and head to Noho.

B-Sides
B-Sides is simlar to For The Record in Amherst, but it caters to the younger crowd. The owner, Tom, has a thing for pop-band action figures (Spice Girls, N*Sync, etc) so the walls are ALWAYS colorful. The CD selection isn't too shabby, and most discs run $12.99- $15.99, which is average for Northampton. You shouldn't expect any exciting

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imports, but you should expect people who are willing to order anything for you. B-Sides Nice used section that will be discussed later.

Dynamite Records.
Considering the number of WMUA alumni that work at this store, I'm sure they expect a rave review, but no, I'm still bitter about getting my application turned down 2 years ago! HA! Just kidding. Seriously though, this store is it for finding new jazz releases. Michael Ehlers heads that department and knows it well. I can't say I know blues or reggae too well, but in that regard I've heard this store spoken highly of. The Indie and punk selections are typical, while anything else seems to revolve around what's hot at Smith parties. New CDs cost about $15.49.

Newbury Comics on Main St. Amherst

Step Two, The Used:

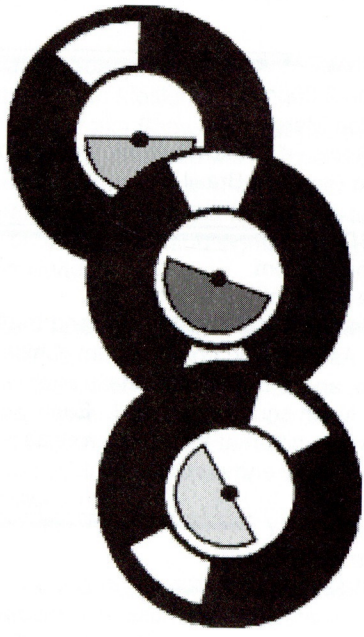
Since we're in Northampton, let's not take the bus back yet, besides, it's getting late.

Turn It Up!
This basement of love opened in 1995. They've expanded into 1_ basement spaces, and have the most bang for your buck in the Valley. CDs sell for $8 flat, LPs for around $4-$10, and the ever-revolving "new arrivals" section is the first spot to hit. Anything good that makes it past the employees, won't last much more than a few days there. They get insane amounts of cut-outs and bizarre European over-stocks. There are tons of titles by seminal 80's faves like The Clash, New Order, The Smiths, Jesus & Mary Chain, plus more John Coltrane and Miles Davis CDs than you could shake a stick at. Not to mention, the dollar bin usually yields some tasty finds. Turn It Up! also holds things forever. I mean it; go in there and look at the hold pile behind the counter!!!

and metal. They can be a bit pricey, yet they have a better selection than Newbury, and they're barely two years old. The used selection is pretty decent, with prices running around $8. They have a vinyl selection worth mentioning with many things you couldn't find anywhere else, save for distros at shows. Red Rocket has tons of shirts, buckles, patches, and pins, and Scott will order anything you want.

The Dog Museum

This time head North on I-91 to Brattleboro, VT. Formerly named Meridian's Music, this store has a vinyl selection that is probably the best I've seen out here in 5 years, despite its messiness. They have tons of old hardcore LPs that have been out of print for years, which still cost shelf price, not to mention loads of electronica and hip hop. The CDs are unpredictable, much like the vinyl, yet they also stock a lot of commercial music that sells well . This is another store I cannot go into with out $20 to spend.



CMC Music Outlet

More of a music store than record shop, CMC has a ton of vintage amps, guitars, and pedals around to play with, mostly on consignment. The CD selection is a nominal used bin that has a lot of schlock from the early 90s and some decent more recent stuff. The vinyl, however, is a blazing goldmine of early 80s new wave, pop, and punk. Most things are modestly priced at $5-$8. There are a few records in there that hit the $20 mark, but they are usually worth it. CMC is another nice place to spend a rainy November afternoon.

There ya have it kiddos, those are the best places I can think of to blow green in this Valley. So screw the malls and support independent retailers, until we all have barcodes tattooed onto our shrink-wrap.

Catch Mike Barrett on the air Saturdays from 3:00-6:00PM with his show Liberation Frequency!

Dynamite
The vinyl selection is difficult to look through and usually not worth the effort. The used CDs, priced at around $7, are hit-or-miss. I've found some good deals there, but I've seen a lot of crap that sits there forever, too.

B-Sides
The weird thing with this store is that it looks like some one just sells a good piece of their CD collection all at once, and then it just sits there for months, leaving customers plenty of time to pick through it with a fine-toothed comb, not having to worry about things getting snagged. Discs run $3.99-$7.99, and there's an LP section worth exploring. Their dollar bin is completely unpredictable. Stock doesn't rotate terriblye fast, so check it out every once in a while.

Deb Deyo's latest is plentiful in various used cassette bins.

Back to the college town...

Newbie's
When they have sales on used CDs, they are amazing. I've seen discs drop down to $.99, and you can still find amazing titles. The regular used section can be overpriced, and a lot of the "rarer," "hipper" titles sell for upwards of $11.99. Remember, these are used CDs...

Mystery Train
This is my other favorite store and a hands-down favorite in Amherst. CDs sell for $6.50- $8.50, LPs $4.50- $8.50. Most any section in the store is top notch, but especially the new vinyl. I can spend hours going through those 2 shelves, and still walk out with enough cash left for pizza. They have a lot of punk and hardcore and boast hefty outrock and experimental music sections. Go in when you have a rainy Sunday afternoon to kill, or ask Neale about the Hyped 2 Death complilations. Cozy up to the headphones and learn a little.

Step Three, The Far:
If you have a car, these stores are the best yet, if you don't, listen to the myths...

Red Rocket Records
Located in Indian Orchard, a small "suburb" of Springfield, about 45 minutes south of Amherst, this is the best place for punk, hardcore,

WORLD

MONDAY
12noon-2:30pm
Brandon Marger
Afro Roots—"Afro-Latin music from Cuba, Puerto Rico and Brazil."

TUESDAY
12noon-2:30pm
Tamie and Vinh
A Little Voice—"Contemporary and traditional Asian music from Vietnam, China, Japan, and Korea; occasionally exploring other Asian countries as well. Each week features a different theme, as well as news, poetry and comedic skits."

WEDNESDAY
12noon-2:30pm
Glenn Siegel
Tiny Planets—"Roots music and modern hybrids from all corners of the globe."

THURSDAY
12noon-2:30pm
Ben Legg
Musica Atomica—"Fill your lunch hour with old and new sounds from Brazil, Cape Verde and other Portuguese-speaking cultures the world over."

FRIDAY
12noon-2:30pm
Rachael Dahlben,
Ketzev Yisrael (The Rhythm of Israel)—"Celebrating all types of Israeli and Jewish music, from traditional tunes to the new and upcoming sounds of the rhythm of Israel."

Strates Frangules,
Ellenike Mania-- Music from Greece.

URBAN

MONDAY
9:00pm-11:30pm
DJ Fo-Lizzy
Lizzy's Double and a half Power Hour—"Basically playing whatever you want...you just gotta deal with weekly Lizzy banter and the ramblings of Lizzy's special guests."

1:30am-3:30am
Jen Albrecht

TUESDAY
9:00pm-11:30pm
DJ Rad Dan
Dubharmonic—"Furious and sexy techno music to set your midweek straight."

WEDNESDAY
9:00pm-11:30pm
DJ Bongohead
Feel Flows—"A diverse range of sounds with music that crosses boundaries and makes connections in a fresh new way. Each show has a unifying theme, and will have a little bit of something for everyone."
1:30am-3:30am
James Naddeo
The Fall and Decline of the Roman Empire—"Tune in if you want to lead a better life."

THURSDAY
9:00pm-11:30pm
Regan
Power 91—"Part House, Part Pop, Part Freestyle, Part Hip Hop...All Regan!"

FRIDAY
9:00pm-11:30pm
Cisco Kelly
The KingDom—"Unlimited urban and West Indian beats that explore the variety of beats, rhythms and sounds."
1:30am-3:30am, William Gish

Public Affairs

MONDAY
5:30pm-6:30pm
Jennie Trashen et al
Undercurrents--- "Corporate radio got you down? We cover news and analysis that is not often covered by the mainstream media. Undercurrents---giving a voice to the community"

TUESDAY
5:30pm-6:30pm
Sports Staff
Sportsline/Coach's Show --
Sports talk / call-in program.

WEDNESDAY
5:30pm-6:30pm
Daria Fisk et al
Upfront/Making Contact—"A nationally syndicated program with views and opinions not normally heard in mainstream media, focusing on social justice./Social justice and diversity from a worker perspective plus worker portraits, talents and stories."

THURSDAY
5:30pm-6:30pm
Counterspin / Voices of Justice with Jo Comerford

FRIDAY
5:30pm-6:30pm
One Love/Critical Resistance
Kim McDowell

SATURDAY

6:00am-8:30am
Mitch and Jen Moskal
Early Bird Polka Show—"A fast paced trip thru the latest releases with a touch of yesterday's best with info on local band appearances to keep the listener up-to-date on the sounds and sights in the polka music world."

8:30am-12:00noon
Billy Belina
Polka Bandstand—"Today's hottest polkas, obereks and waltzes carefully mixed with the greatest performances of the past for a well rounded excursion into the polka music world. Join us for a great musical trip."

12:00noon-3:00pm
Jen Moskal
Jen's Time Machine— "Four decades of the best hits and missed all rolled into one great oldies show. We'll help you relive those magical memories through music."

3:00pm-6:00pm
Mike Barrett
Liberation Frequency—"Punk-Noise-Hardcore-Grind-Electronics."

6:00pm-9:00pm
Caroline Ealy (Yasher)
My Mood—"Includes smooth jazz, a fragrance of old and new R&B, reggae, latin and some more. My Mood."

9:00pm-12midnight
Bilal Ghandour
Mix and Match of the 80s—"An 80s show that concentrates on pop rock, modern and classic rock, "new wave" and alternative genres, while featuring lesser known artists who have not had much of their music played on the radio."

12midnight-3:00am
Matt Feato
Technopolis---"We're open for business every week. For all you serious clubbers out there, this is the place to be for your Before or After Hours. The best in House, Trance, Breaks, Drum& Bass, Lounge and More, mixed up and sent out to your ears. It'S all about the scene and music, so pump up the beats and enjoy."

BE SURE TO TUNE IN TO 91.1 FROM OCTOBER 26 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1 FOR OUR ANNUAL FUND DRIVE! YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT MAKES THIS STATION GREAT!

SUNDAY

6:00am-9:00am
Rev. Bobby J. Wallace
Sunday Morning Gospel—"A gospel program of music and encouragement that is inspirational for the time in which we are living."

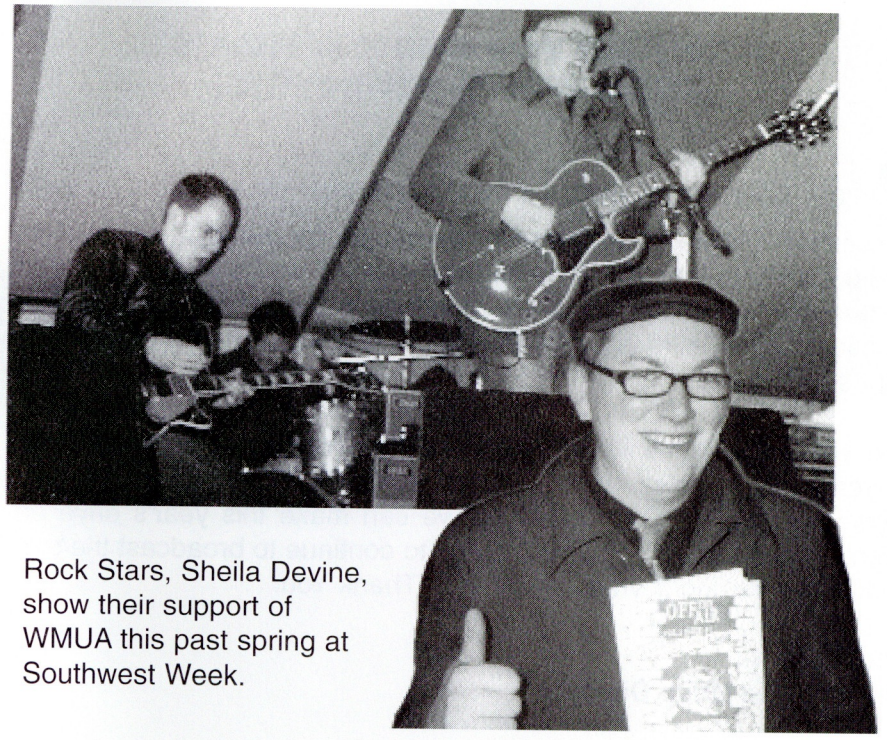
9:00am-12:00noon
Helen Szubzda
Polka Celebration—"Polkas, waltzes and obereks of today and yesteryear in a diversity of styles."

12:00noon-1:00pm
Ken Mosakowski
Focus—"A weekly public affairs series offering political commentary, debate and in-depth coverage of political issues and events often ignored by the commercial media. Produced since 1968."

1:00pm-6:00pm
CB&B Crew
Country Blues and Bluegrass—"In its twenty-seventh year of presenting listeners with the great American musical traditions, mixing country, blues, bluegrass and related styles such as zydeco, Cajun, western swing, rhythm and blues, and old-timey from their earliest roots to the present."

6:00pm-9:00pm
Christoph Cox
A Thousand Plateaus—"This program focuses on electronic music as the medium through which multiple musical genres meet and cross-fertilize. Each program will tour the electronic landscape, weaving together disparate styles and drawing connections among them."

9:00pm-12midnight
DJ Max
Martian Gardens—"A weekly excursion into experimental, electronic, electroacoustic, ambient, and contemporary classical music."



Rock Stars, Sheila Devine, show their support of WMUA this past spring at Southwest Week.

ROCK STAR TEST RESULTS
If you picked:

Mostly A's:
You are very laid back and confident. You like to enjoy everything the world has to offer you. In fact, in a past life, you were enjoying the beautiful island of Jamaica, puffing away and singing about everything from injustice to love. Of course, that was when you were Bob Marley.

Mostly B's:
You are wild. You love to party and have fun. You are attracted to anything that is dangerous, illegal, or edgy. But be careful (and stay away from narcotics) because you don't want to end up like you did in your last life as Sid Vicious.

Mostly C's:
You are a free spirit. You don't care what other people think of you, and you live life as you please. Your only motto is peace and love. This is because you are a reincarnation of Janis Joplin.

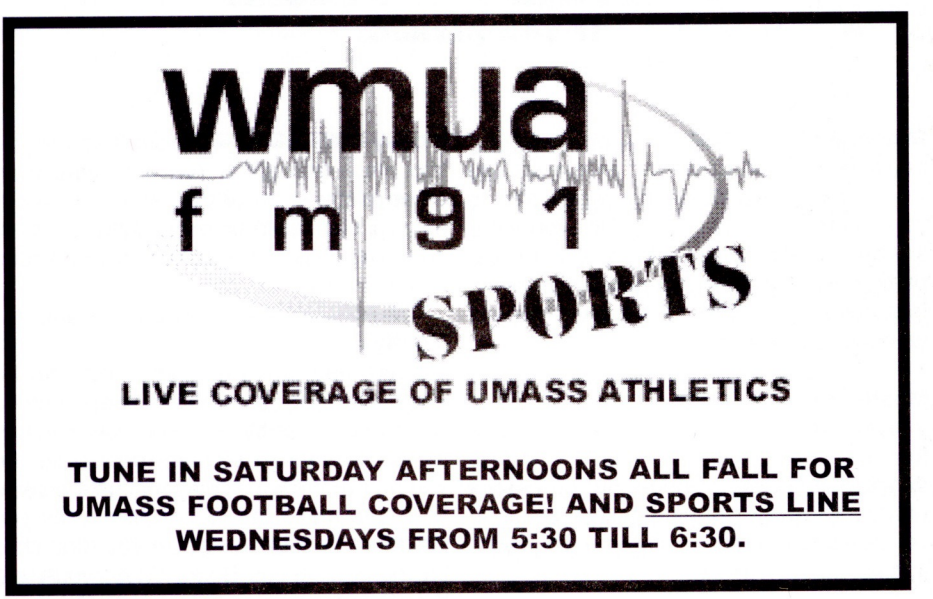
Mostly D's:
You are very analytical, and you see the world through a different perspective. Nothing can get by you; you notice everything. That is why so many people admire you and are inspired by you. Just be careful not to make the same mistake as you did in your past life... spare your first child the name Frances Bean: When you were Kurt Cobain, you weren't so merciful.

A THANK YOU FROM WMUA'S FUND DRIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to all of you who helped to make last year's fund drive such a success. With your help, we were able to surpass our goal of $23,000. Your pledges are greatly appreciated; we are now able to put up our new transmitter, as well as continue to perform many other vital functions essential to the operation of our station. WMUA is thankful for your support.

This year's fund drive will be from Saturday, October 26 through Friday, November 1. Please don't hesitate to show your support for your favorite programs. With your help we can make this year's drive an even bigger success. Please help us to continue to broadcast the student and community voice of UMass. Thank You.

Ken Fredette
WMUA Fund Drive Director


wmua
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SPORTS
LIVE COVERAGE OF UMASS ATHLETICS
TUNE IN SATURDAY AFTERNOONS ALL FALL FOR UMASS FOOTBALL COVERAGE! AND SPORTS LINE WEDNESDAYS FROM 5:30 TILL 6:30.